



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF OREGON**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon is a 97-year-old grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 27, 2017

To: House Committee on Transportation Policy
Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
Rep. Mark Meek and Rep. A. Richard Vial, Vice-Chairs
Members of the Committee

Email: htp.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 2320 – Non-motorized Boating Program -**Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon believes in promoting an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest. We recognize the importance of adapting to new recreational choices and believe that a shared-costs principle is a reasonable fiscal policy for this issue. We have supported the aquatic invasive species program since its inception because of the potential cost to our public infrastructure should those species get a hold in Oregon. It is with these positions in mind that we support HB 2320.

The Oregon Marine Board notes that, although we have about 157,000 motorized boats in Oregon, we also have at least 131,000 non-motorized boats. New Oregonians are choosing different recreational choices and are asking for facilities to accommodate those choices. This new fee will provide a fund to begin to address those needs. The Marine Board had an external advisory committee and did extensive public outreach to this constituency before filing this bill, so we believe it is time to create this new program.

Separately, asking that the fee be attached to all non-motorized boats, instead of limiting to those over 10 feet, is reasonable to help with enforcement of the permit program. Enforcement officers will not have to calculate the size of the boat before stopping—an efficiency and fairness.

We have no position on the issue of non-motorized craft, but would point out that the Marine Board has, as a part of its budget Key Performance Measures, assuring for the safety of Oregonians. We do believe it is a policy choice for the Legislature related to river safety and the cost of rescue should people using these “crafts” not use a mandatory life jacket.

We ask that you pass HB 2320 out of committee with a “do pass” recommendation to Ways and Means. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss this legislation.

Norman Turrill
LWVOR President

Peggy Lynch
LWVOR Natural Resources Coordinator

cc: Oregon Marine Board Director Scott Brewen (Scott.C.Brewen@oregon.gov)
Lauri Aunan, Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor (Lauri.Aunan@oregon.gov)